

# THE JERUSALEM POST

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The New York Times

## Albright among history's victims

8-page pullout

## Privatization of the rails

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## Don't dress up for a farce from London

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## Hizbullah wounds seven soldiers in zone

By DAVID RIDGE

Seven Nahal Brigade soldiers were wounded — one seriously, two moderately and four lightly — in the security zone yesterday as heavy exchanges broke the temporary lull in the fighting in south Lebanon.

IAF warplanes and helicopter gunships struck at Hizbullah targets north of the zone, as IDF gunners, in response to the clash in which the soldiers were wounded.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attack, saying members of its fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, had ambushed a unit of IDF troops which itself had been going out on ambush duty. It later transpired, however, that

the soldiers had surprised a Hizbullah squad in the rocky and bush-covered terrain en route to plant explosive devices in the area.

The Nahal Brigade troops were on operational duties in the zone's western sector, north of the IDF's Karkum position.

The gunmen apparently spotted the IDF troops first and opened fire, but then fled, leaving behind large quantities of explosives and their own weapons, including rifles and ammunition.

During the clash, Hizbullah support units fired mortars and Sagger anti-tank missiles at the soldiers from north of the zone. There were no immediate reports of any casualties.

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## Security talks start Sunday

### PM, Arafat agree in meeting at Erez

By DAVID MAKOVSKY, JON BIRMANUEL and agencies

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat agreed last night that eight panels dealing with security and other issues will begin negotiating on Sunday.

"I think this is a promising continuation of the Hebron agreement," Netanyahu told reporters after the two-hour meeting at the Erez junction. "We are continuing in that spirit of cooperation to



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, accompanied by Foreign Minister David Levy, meets with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday at the civil administration headquarters at the Erez junction. (Reuters)

### Haneghi won't recommend pardon for three prisoners, Page 3

resolve all our outstanding problems and matters."

"We had a very important meeting just now," Arafat said. "We discussed the details of the problems we are facing, especially the points which have to be implemented after the Hebron agreement."

The panels, which are called for

in the recent Hebron pullback accord, include ones regarding the establishment of a Palestinian airport in Gaza's Dahaniya area, the construction of a Gaza seaport and safe passage for Palestinians between the West Bank and Gaza. The IDF is expected to head the Israeli side of the talks, since the main point of contention over these issues is Israel's insistence

on adequate security provisions to prevent smuggling into the territories and unauthorized entry into Israel.

The "people to people" committee, headed on the Palestinian side by Israel liaison Sufian Abu Zayde, is to promote non-governmental relations between Israelis and Palestinians.

Other talks to resume include

those on transferring Israeli excise

### Court injunction issued on prisoner release, Page 3

taxes and other monies to the PA, whose financial distress emerged

as one of Arafat's major concerns last night. The economics committee is to meet this week, headed by Arafat's economic adviser Khaled Salam.

Under the Paris economic agreement of 1994, Israel agreed to rebate to the PA tax money collected from Palestinians in the fol-

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## French envoy links withdrawal to Golan deal

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

A unilateral Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon would not succeed without a pullback on the Golan, and therefore France would almost likely refuse to station troops as a buffer force in southern Lebanon, French Ambassador Jean Noel de Lacoste said last night.

De Lacoste's comments seem to shoot down a scenario put forward recently by Labor MK Yossi Beilin, namely that Israel would need third-party help for a unilateral pullback from Lebanon to succeed, and mentioning France by name. Beilin cited a pledge by French Foreign Minister Hevre de Charette during Operation Grapes of Wrath, that France would be able to deploy troops in southern Lebanon at any time. But this no longer seems to be French policy.

The French ambassador indicated it would be futile for Israel to believe it could

resolve the situation in southern Lebanon without dealing with the Golan Heights. He suggested Syria would use violence in southern Lebanon until Israel made concessions on the Heights.

"If there is no deal with Syria, I don't see us intervening to separate [Israel and Hizbullah]. The Lebanon solution is tied to the Golan," de Lacoste said. "We don't believe anything that is unilateral can be successful. I don't think a [unilateral] withdrawal from Lebanon would be accepted by Syria. I personally don't see 'Lebanon First' as a way out."

The ambassador sharply denied that tomorrow's visit by French Defense Minister Charles Millon would result in an agreement for a French buffer force in southern Lebanon. He said Millon's visit should be seen as part of an effort to bolster military cooperation between the two countries.

## EU wrote letter of Hebron assurance to Arafat

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

The European Union wrote a letter of assurance to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat on the eve of the Hebron deal pledging that it would "use all its political and moral weight" to ensure that the agreement is "fully implemented."

EU Middle East peace coordinator Miguel Moratinos said the letter helped clinch the Hebron accord. It was officially presented to Arafat after the agreement was signed.

The letter, which was signed by Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Mierlo, whose country holds the rotating chairmanship of the EU, was apparently written at Arafat's behest. The letter seems to explain Arafat's effusive praise of Europe's "political" role during his visit to the Netherlands.

According to the agreement, Israel not only is committed to pulling back in Hebron, but also to completing three further pullbacks in the West Bank over the next year-and-a-

half. In an interview last week, Moratinos refused to discuss the letter in detail, but did deny an interpretation of it that Europe would put massive pressure upon Israel if Israel does not live up to its side of the agreement. Europe is Israel's largest trading partner.

"We are against pressure," Moratinos said. "We believe the approach to take is to seek to persuade the parties to move forward on peace."

He said that the contents of the letter were drafted after consultations with the US. Former secretary of state Warren Christopher wrote a letter of assurance to both sides, but the language in them reportedly falls short of the European text.

In the US letter to the Palestinians, Christopher reportedly said the US is "committed" to full implementation, while that to Israel does not go beyond saying that the US policy is to "support and promote" full implementation.

In apparent deference to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who has championed the phrase, the EU letter

to the Palestinians includes the idea of "reciprocity." Moratinos insisted that Netanyahu was aware of the EU letter before it was sent.

The EU letter, which was first disclosed in *The Jordan Times* two weeks ago, reads as follows:

Dear Mr. President,

In my capacity as president of the Council of Ministers of the European Union allow me, first of all, to congratulate you on the occasion of the signing of the protocol in implementation of Israeli redeployment in Hebron and the connected documents.

As you are well aware, the European Union, through its special envoy to the Middle East peace process, has been in close contact with all the parties involved in order to help achieve this important breakthrough. The Hebron negotiations demonstrated that only the parties to the conflict can ultimately resolve their differences.

Continued on Page 2

## Antwerp Jews bid to recover Nazi-looted diamonds

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — All that glitters is not looted gold. It could be diamonds.

The Jewish community of Antwerp, emboldened by the renewed interest in Swiss banks and Nazi loot, is trying to recover its plundered diamonds. These could be more valuable than the dormant Swiss accounts, according to an official of the Centrale, representing the Jews of the Flemish region.

The bid for the diamonds is part of the unfolding picture of how Jewish communities in Western Europe failed to recoup their property after World War II. Recent revelations have focused on France, where the Paris Municipality apparently owns flats that had been confiscated from Jews.

The diamonds may be the most valuable of all looted properties, although the Centrale could not estimate the losses. Diamonds are largely a cash business without adequate records. However, the

stolen gems must have been worth tens of millions of dollars during the war era, said the official. "With one handful of diamonds, you can live for a lifetime," he said.

Gems were taken during raids on the diamond exchange, where the overwhelming majority of the dealers were Jews. "People had to drop them on the ground, and the Germans took everything," the Centrale official said last week.

Even though there is no estimate of the value of the loss, there is evidence of the theft. When some dealers were arrested by the Nazis, they were forced to pay what was called a "guarantee" in diamonds. At liberation, some surviving dealers had returned to them empty envelopes that apparently were used when the gems were collected. The Centrale has some of these original envelopes, which

show a stamp of the Reich, the name of the raiding unit, the name of the dealer, and the number of carats taken.

"We have no indication if some of the goods were [recovered] after the war by American or Belgian authorities or hidden, for example, in Switzerland," the Centrale official said.

The Swiss angle surfaced last fall, with the release of one of the "safehaven" files — part of the trove of intelligence documents that have been used in the Swiss banks inquiry.

That document, a 1948 memorandum from the Belgian Mission in Germany to US military authorities, said that the Nazis in 1940 took millions of dollars in diamonds and control of 1,200 diamond workshops in Antwerp. The

Continued on Page 4

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WEATHER FORECAST

NEWS in brief

Aguda's Rabbi Feldman dies

Rabbi Moshe Ze'ev Feldman, the chairman of Agudat Yisrael, died yesterday in Jerusalem. He was 67. Feldman's entry into the world of politics came as a surprise to Aguda circles, who had known him as a yeshiva head and recognized him as a leading scholar.

Taxi fares up 4.3%

Taxi fares are to rise by 4.3 percent from tomorrow, the Transportation Ministry announced yesterday. According to the newly revised fares, taxi meters are to be adjusted to a starting fare of NIS 6.20, instead of NIS 6. The starting fare in Eilat is to be NIS 5.20. The Ministry also has decided that taxis are to charge a flat NIS 2.40 when called by telephone.

Assad reportedly was in coma

Syrian President Hafez Assad spent two weeks in a coma and was revived by Russian doctors in January, the Sunday Times reported yesterday. Officially, Assad went into the hospital for surgery to treat a prostate problem.

Radio has become more popular

Ten percent more people are listening to the radio today than six months ago, according to a poll taken by the Second Television and Radio Authority, with the largest increase, some 6%, going to regional radio. Red Sea Voice in Eilat has the most listeners, 37.3%, with Radio Tel Aviv in the Dan area having to make do with a 4.1% listener share.

'Trees of Peace' campaign coming to Israel

Native American Red Indian Chief Jake Swamp, spiritual teacher of the Mohawks, is visiting Israel as part of his Trees of Peace campaign. Swamp aims to plant a billion trees around the world in the name of peace. Two million already have been planted in different places, including the grounds of the UN building in New York, Geneva and along the remains of the Berlin Wall.

Mordechai remains against pullout

MKs mixed over 'Kochav Yair Circle' plan

The IDF will use all its force to protect northern residents while Israel continues to exhaust all means to reach peace that would enable a withdrawal from south Lebanon, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai declared yesterday. Mordechai reiterated that there would be no pullout from the security zone until circumstances arise that will guarantee the security and safety of northern communities.

The group of MKs has named the nickname "The Kochav Yair Circle" since the first meeting was held Saturday night at Ezra's home in that settlement. Those present included MKs from four different parties - Michael Eitan (Likud), Yossi Beilin (Labor), Yehuda Harel (Third Way) and Yitzhak Cohen (Shas) as well as Ezra - and former General Security Service head Ya'acov Perry; former senior GSS member Yossi Ginosar; retired major-generals Haim Erez and Danny Rothschild; and Yisrael Harel, one of the leaders of the

stay in Lebanon under the current circumstances. He proposes using US and/or French mediation to bring about an agreement to disarm Hizbullah, massive IDF redeployment on the Israeli side of the border and merging the SLA with the Lebanese Army. Israel would get international backing if it was necessary to retaliate for Hizbullah violations of the agreement, Beilin said.

OC Air Force imposes safety measures

In a sign of confidence, OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu copiled a CH-53 helicopter in the squadron which lost two of its choppers, and said training must go on despite the tragic crash which took the lives of 73 military men. Meanwhile, the commission of inquiry headed by David Ivry, a former IAF commander, took its investigation into the air, flying in a CH-53 as a pair of them simulated the fatal flight. They flew in a similar pattern in order to get an idea of the situation which led to the collision.



Painful memories: Relatives of the victims of the 1994 bombing of the Buenos Aires Jewish Community Center comfort one another yesterday, at the dedication of a Jewish National Fund forest in Modi'in in memory of the 95 persons killed.

Nahal soldier stoic despite brigade's losses

The Nahal Brigade, which suffered heavy losses in last week's helicopter disaster in addition to four soldiers killed in Lebanon last month, continues its duties in the security zone. For the troops themselves, it is a case of carrying on despite the trauma and sense of bereavement; shouldering the additional burden caused by the losses.

When it comes after the incidents that occurred here a week ago and three weeks ago, in which friends I was closer to were killed, it makes it even more difficult to accept. Asked if it were difficult for him to serve in south Lebanon after what happened, Knaan replied: "It's not easy, but you do it. When you go in you don't think about it too much, although that doesn't prevent you from thinking."

How does he deal with his parents' concern for him? "First and foremost, when I know something is happening, the first thing I do is call my parents, before they learn about it, and tell them I'm alive, say hello... I can only encourage them by saying that I will soon be leaving. I always tell them it's only a bit longer, and I will come home safely."

Deri questioned again in Bar-On case

MK Aryeh Deri (Shas) was questioned about the alleged "Bar-On-for-Hebron" deal yesterday for the third time. Channel 1 reported last night that he was questioned under caution, but police refused to confirm or deny this. Police are to question Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu about the alleged deal when he returns from the US next week, his office announced yesterday.

The head of the investigative team, Cmdr. Sando Mazor, said yesterday that the police believe that the first stage of the investigation - now in its third week - will end this week. At that point, the police and the State Attorney's Office will consult about what direction the investigation should take in the coming weeks.

That the Bar-On appointment was made a condition for Shas support for the Hebron withdrawal. However, police believe they know who the source of the Channel 1 report is. For now, the police have decided not to seek a court order which would require Channel 1 to turn over the information it has to the police, but still have not ruled out such a move.

The South African Zionist Federation (Israel) extends heartfelt condolences to the Misheker Family on the tragic loss of their son GILAD 571 in the terrible helicopter accident. We share in their grief and mourn with all the bereaved families and the people of Israel.

To Avihu Ben Nun Deepest sympathy on the death of your Father 571 Our condolences to the family. Allalouf & Co. Shipping

To Zvi Liberman Deepest sympathy on the death of your Father 571 Our condolences to the family. Allalouf & Co. Shipping

AMIT Women and the AMIT Network of Educational Projects join the House of Israel in mourning the tragic passing of 73 dedicated sons and send heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

EU LETTER Continued from Page 1 The European Union is convinced that you have reached a fair and balanced agreement which will favor further progress

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Handwritten text on the right edge of the page, including "Haneg Palestin", "delay in n", "with blood", "Women Pale", and "Jews jailed".

# Hanegbi: No pardons for 3 Palestinian women prisoners

By EVELYN GORDON

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said yesterday he refuses to recommend a pardon for three Palestinian women whom the Prime Minister's Office wants released from prison.

submit a recommendation. Hanegbi's decision does not obviate a petition filed yesterday to the High Court of Justice against the planned prisoner releases, however, since it does not affect some of the cases referred to.

ed by military courts (the president's authority extends only to those convicted by civilian courts). Hanegbi has no authority over these cases, as pardons for people convicted by a military court are recommended by the defense minister rather than the justice minister.

ommended by the previous government, as well as those of three women whose release was recommended by former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman.

# Court injunction issued on release

By EVELYN GORDON

The High Court of Justice issued an interim injunction yesterday against the government's decision to pardon Palestinian murderers as a goodwill gesture towards the Palestinians.

The injunction was issued in response to a petition by Ora Klein - whose husband, Zvi, was killed in 1991 by a terror gang commanded by one of them, Abir Wahidi - and the Terror Victims Association.

stitutes "moral bankruptcy which will put an end to the rule of law," the petition continued, as it proves that any crime can be pardoned if the pardon serves the government's political purposes.

Finally, the petition argued, the planned release will endanger Israeli lives, by showing that Palestinian terrorists who kill Israelis do not have to fear lengthy prison terms.

The women were originally supposed to have been released as part of the 1995 Interim Agreement signed with the PLO, but President Ezer Weizman refused to grant two of the necessary pardons, saying he would not pardon anyone with "blood on their hands."

# Coalition MKs rip plan to release women terrorists

LIAT COLLINS

News of the proposed Arab women prisoner release drew angry responses among some coalition MKs.

promise to the NRP to discuss such measures with Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, the NRP's representative on the ministerial steering committee on the negotiations with the Palestinians, and because the prime minister is not sticking to the principle of reciprocity in his decision to free Palestinian prisoners without making it conditional on terrorists who have found refuge in the autonomous areas being handed over to Israel.

Porat demanded the premier freeze the procedure releasing the women terrorists until the government had discussed the issue.

MKs, which calls for the release of Jewish prisoners convicted of murdering Arabs in revenge for terror attacks.

Meir Porush (UTJ) and Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled (Tsomet-Likud).

## BACKGROUND

# The delay in releasing prisoners with 'blood on their hands'

By JON IMMANUEL

The release of 23 female prisoners was expected to be the one certain outcome of the meeting between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat last night.

had the legal right to overrule the prime minister on the issue. As a result of Weizman's actions, then OC Central Command Maj-Gen. Ilan Biran, who was formally responsible for pardoning West Bank residents, refused to pardon two others.

reasons for denying pardons were ethical and legal, the turnaround today is clearly only political, the result of such pressure as the September riots.



Health Ministry honors exemplary health care workers. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu congratulates practical nurse Ananya Inbal, winner of the Health Ministry's outstanding worker award for 1996, at yesterday's annual Civil Service Prizes for Outstanding Accomplishment awards ceremony at the Knesset.

# Women Palestinian murderers

The killers among the Palestinian women prisoners to be released are:

Brazil expressed a willingness to take her in if Israel deported her.

# Jews jailed for killing Arabs

The following is a list of Jews convicted of killing Arabs who have been mentioned as candidates for pardons in light of the expected release of Palestinian women terrorists convicted of murder:

terms for the murder of seven Palestinian workers near Rishon LeZion in May 1990. Popper claimed to have committed the murders because he was sexually assaulted as a youth by a Palestinian.

DRIVE CAREFULLY

WE'RE MOVING! The Jerusalem Post Book Department is moving to new premises at 22 Hahistadrut - just off Ben Yehuda. The JP store on 10 HaRav Kook will be closed to walk-in customers from Thur. Feb. 13, 1997.

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Israel Airports Authority REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON MANAGEMENT, COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS FOR CAR PARKS AT THE BEN-GURION INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ISRAEL.



# Don't dress for Shakespeare

By HELEN KAYE

Jane Shakespeare plays sophisticated Jacqueline in the West End production, and Suzette, the prettily cordon-bleu cook, in the touring production of *Don't Dress for Dinner* that starts the first of eight performances on February 22 at Beit Habayal in Tel Aviv.

Robin Hawdon did the adaptation of French playwright Marc Camoletti's hit farce that ran in Paris for two years and is still going strong in London after six.

It's the story of what happens to a romantic candlelight dinner when Suzette pretends to be Suzanne (Julie Fox), who's actually Bernard's (Richard Mullins) mistress but because Robert (Neil France) wants to save his friend's marriage to Jacqueline (Claire Fisher), whose lover he is, he pretends that Suzanne is his mistress.

"Got that? No? Never mind. We're still missing Suzette's husband, George (Patrick Kearns) who doesn't at all approve of what he thinks is going on. It all comes right by the final curtain which is what farces are supposed to do, and then life echoes comedy because Shakespeare and Kearns have been man and wife since last June.

"I met Patrick when I graduated college to join a children's theater company," says Shakespeare, 30, over the phone from her London home, "and we've been together since. It's an asset working with my husband." They did another couples play called *Double Act* in Nottingham last summer walking "off the plane and into rehearsal. We learned our lines on our honeymoon."

*Don't Dress for Dinner* has been Shakespeare's mascot. "It's a fun piece from start to finish." She started out as understudy for the '94 summer season of the play on the island of Jersey. (George did the men.) In '95 she understudied the West End production, and in true understudy tradition, went on for the star when she was out sick for two weeks.

In between times she's done another farce in Nottingham called *Sailor Beware*, and a third in Edinburgh called *The Secretary Bird*. And when stage jobs don't happen "I train people in telemarketing. It brings in good money."

She was born in Warwickshire which is Shakespeare country. Is there a connection? She doesn't know. "I'm not sure if I'm related to the man," she says. "As well as Tel Aviv, *Don't Dress for Dinner* will play in Jerusalem, Haifa, Kfar Sava, Rehovot and Netanya.



Jane Shakespeare says 'it's an asset' being married to her co-star Patrick Kearns.

## NEWS of the muse

### Canceling Israel

It has been a while since artistic organizations canceled signed contracts for appearances in Israel for political reasons. But England's Hilliard Ensemble, which was to perform at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center on February 11, canceled its visit citing political reasons and worries for its members' safety. The British Council, which partially sponsored the concert, was asked to persuade this refined vocal quartet to change its mind but to no avail. The British vocal ensemble I Fagiolini, which specializes in music from the European courts of the 15th and 16th century, will replace the Hilliard, performing its special program *All The King's Men*.

Michael Aizenstadt

### A big winner

The Jerusalem Quartet, a young group whose members work within the auspices of the Jerusalem Music Center, won two prizes at the prestigious Franz Schubert and the Music of the 20th Century Competition in Graz, Austria, last week. In its first-ever competition, this foursome won both the first prize (\$22,000) and a special prize for best interpretation of 20th-century music (\$5,500).



The Jerusalem Quartet

The prize money will be divided between the four members of the quartet, violinists Alexander Pavlovsky and Sergei Bressler, violist Amihai Gross and cellist Kyriil Zlotnikov. The quartet's members are all 18 years old and will join the army, as musicians, in March.

Michael Aizenstadt

### Arts and the government

Representatives from all the country's major arts institutions and organizations met in the Prime Minister's Office recently to discuss "and define what we're doing culturally for the next decade," as the PM put it.

Cameri general manager Noam Semel suggested the establishment of a National Endowment for the Arts, and a substantial tax break for corporate sponsors of the arts.

This year's arts budget is NIS 285 million, an increase of NIS 15 million over last year, but not enough to pass on the promised 10% COL increase across the board, said Arts and Culture authority head Dr. David Alexander, who chaired the meeting. Education and Culture Minister Zevulun Hammer said that he hopes to increase the 1998 arts budget by NIS 150m.

Helen Kaye

### Banking on royalties

Treasury officials must be laughing all the way to the bank as royalties from the three Channel 2 franchises roll in at NIS 26.5 million for 1996 as opposed to NIS 5.9m. in 1995. The law requires an 8% royalty fee monthly from Keshet, Reshet and Tel-Ad.

Helen Kaye

### Roseanne the wicked witch

Television star Roseanne will make her live stage debut from May 7 to June 1 at Madison Square Garden in New York.



Roseanne Barr

In what some critics are already hailing as a brilliant piece of casting, she is to play the Wicked Witch of the West in a theatrical version of *The Wizard of Oz*. Roseanne's ex-husband Tom Arnold certainly has reason to regard the sitcom star as witch-like. Following their divorce, Roseanne was reported as saying "I'm only upset that I'm not a widow."

(It is not known whether she's been able to remove the tattoo which reads "Property of Tom Arnold" from her upper thigh.)

Tom Gross

### The force is still with 'Star Wars'

The newly released version of the 1977 science-fiction classic *Star Wars* last week stunned movie execs and film critics alike when it grossed over \$35 million in its first weekend at the US box office.

"I am flabbergasted, just flabbergasted," director George Lucas told *The New York Times*. "It's a 20-year-old movie. I just didn't expect this to happen."

The success of the film, titled *Star Wars Special Edition*, seems largely a case of nostalgic parents - many dressed as Luke Skywalker, Darth Vader and other characters from the film - bringing their children to see it.

Tom Gross

## The Bible's 'Eternal Triangle'

By HELEN KAYE

Can't you just imagine the banner headline if there'd been tabloids 3,000 years ago? "Get Rid of Her!" shrieks patriarch's wife. And in only slightly smaller type: Abraham banishes Hagar.

The very first eternal triangle, except that as the first it wasn't eternal. That came afterwards. Or do Adam, Eve, and the serpent count?

Oh, never mind! Jerusalem Stage Productions (JSP) presents the *The Eternal Triangle*, a biblical musical comedy adapted and directed by Zippora Peled from Aviva Galli's play. It's an affectionate retelling of the Abraham/Sarah/Hagar story with a very definite, though light-handed, link to the present.

"Both the Arabs and the Jews claim Abraham as the father of their nation," says Peled, and Hagar, in song, "warns Abraham to think of the consequences of his action."

Peled wrote the script, but when it came to the songs and the music, everybody pitched in. Melvyn Millman (Abraham) was one of the lyricists. Music came from Don Slovin (the other Abraham), with singer/songwriter Dafna Elyat contributing another of the songs, "and we got music for two more of the songs



Director Zippora Peled: I'm just the understudy.

from the friend of a friend who lives in Australia," says Peled triumphantly.

She's the founding artistic director of JSP, which is eight years old. She also sews all the costumes, takes the pictures, designs and executes the program and sells the tickets, saying matter of factly "you know how it is in amateur theater - everybody wants to be onstage."

She has been on stage for most of her life.

Born in Poland 75 years ago, Peled grew up in the US and immigrated in 1950 with her husband and children, one of whom is actress Joanna Peled. Zippora Peled was one of the first students at the Tel Aviv University theater department, studying there with Peter Fry. In 1961, she played Katherine to Topol's Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, the Haifa Theater's inaugural production.

She worked at Habimah and at the Beersheba Theater where she played roles such as the mother in *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, and the title role in *The House of Bernarda Alba*. JSP is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream and the theater has done some 20 shows.

The most recent production is the romantic comedy *Two on the Rocks*, also by Peled.

She doesn't like to talk about herself, this most energetic of grandmothers. "Talk about the cast," she says.

All right! Each role is double cast, so the other Abraham is Hanan Rutstein, the Hagar is Liat Ron and Rivka Hirsch and the Sarah, Rahel Jaskow and Peled, who hastens to add "I'm just the understudy."

*The Eternal Triangle* is at the Khan Theater, Jerusalem, from tonight.

## Countertenor attack

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Following the recent recital of German countertenor Andreas Scholl in Tel Aviv, this week three more countertenors and one boy soprano are due to sing in early-music concerts.

French countertenor Gerard Lesne was raised in the outskirts of Paris and began his musical life as a rock musician. But crossing over to classical music did not mean a negation of his roots. Indeed he recently recorded a new rock album.

Lesne explains that he did not used to utilize his countertenor voice "because I simply did not know how."

In 1985, Lesne founded II Seminario Musicale, an ensemble

focusing on the performance of early music and baroque music. "Since the inauguration of II Seminario I sing first and foremost Italian baroque music. I love Italian music and it suits my voice."

In its current Israeli concerts (Thursday at Noga in Jaffa and Saturday at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem), II Seminario Musicale and Gerard Lesne perform both Italian and French baroque music.

ENGLAND'S I Fagiolini ensemble comprises various singers including two countertenors, Robert Hollingworth, the ensemble's director, and Richard Wyn Roberts. This ensemble has traditionally focused on the Renaissance period.

### MOVIE REVIEW

## A calmer sutra

By ADINA HOFFMAN

Mira Nair's *Kama Sutra, A Tale of Love* takes its title from Vatsyayana's third-century Sanskrit erotic treatise, its vibrant color scheme from a Great Moghul miniature and its dialogue from an airport paperback. As the movie begins to take shape, this bizarre combination seems poised to offer some good, trashy fun.

Set at an opulent 16th-century Indian court, the film tells the story of the rivalry between a beautiful servant girl, Mia (Indira Varma), and a no-less-beautiful princess, Tara (Sarita Choudhury). As Tara learns to wear gorgeous silks and jewels, and to strike such poses as "churning curds" and "twining of a creeper," Mia looks on enviously.

### KAMA SUTRA, A TALE OF LOVE

Directed by Mira Nair. Screenplay by Nair and Helen Kriel. Hebrew title: *Kama Sutra*. 117 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult. With Indira Varma, Sarita Choudhury, Rekha, Naveen Andrews and Ramon Tikaram.

The two girls do study dance together, and it's clear from the outset that the princess is not nearly as expressive with her eyes, ankles and belly button as is the humble maid.

Tara's fiance, King Raj Singh (Naveen Andrews), certainly notices the difference: the first time he meets his bride-to-be he can't help but oggle the servant at her side. In a wondrous mood on the eve of Tara's wedding, Mia slips into the king's bedchamber and the two churn the curds passionately. Once her evil deeds are discovered, Mia is cast out of the palace, befriends and beds a suitor court sculptor, Jai (Ramon Tikaram), becomes the king's favorite courtesan, struggles with furious Tara, and risks it all to save the life of her one true love.

Almost as luscious-looking as it is absurd, *Kama Sutra* is a film profoundly at odds with itself. On the one hand, Nair and co-writer Helena Kriel seem to understand that they're trafficking in romantic kitsch of the first order. The plot is



Raj Singh (Naveen Andrews) is attracted to his future queen's maid, Mia (Indira Varma).

pure bodice-ripping (or midriff-bearing) fantasy, and the script is filled with purple prose like "My Lotus Woman! I found her! I lust her!" The hibiscus-flower-and-satin-throw-pillow atmospherics, meanwhile, are lifted straight from an old Hollywood costume "Eastern" like *The Garden of Allah* or *Kismet*.

On the other hand, the filmmakers soon indicate that they mean this outlandish scenario quite seriously, and this piety is what drains the film of the corny camp aspect that might have made it entertaining. *Kama Sutra* comes from an earnest desire to create apartment, feminist reading of the ancient book of love. But the only notable difference between an exoticizing Victorian treatment of this subject and Nair's politically correct one is the touchy-feely lingo her characters use, and the improbably "liberal" way that they act. "I was afraid of losing control," explains Jai. "You hurt me," Mia tells him. They eventually work through their problems, and Mia learns that in order to be happy she must take charge of her own body.

Nice, thoughts, surely, but they come attached here to an oppressive prescriptive sense (it's not the anachronism that grates, so much as the tone) and a rhythm that's self-indulgently slow. *Kama Sutra* is far too tasteful to work as trash; the film will also disappoint those in search of porn. The sex scenes are surprisingly tame, even silly. Jai's wiggle at the point of climax, a virgin writhes on a bed of rose petals, and the film critic checks her watch.

The Jerusalem office  
Leaders meet on Tajik hostage crisis



# The Other Shoe Tried and Tried Again, With a Vengeance

By JAN HOFFMAN

**O**K, maybe O. J. is half-guilty. What else is a person supposed to conclude? One unanimous jury said he was not guilty. But last week, a second jury, also unanimous, said in essence that he was. Welcome to the mixed messages of Justice Redux, the era of sequels, remakes and rematches. Last year brought Meneendez II and Goetz II; 1997 is off to a fast start with O. J. II, and Crown Heights II, in which the jury resumes deliberations tomorrow. Probably coming to newsstands this spring: Alex Kelly II.

Legally, questions about whether these second go-round trials can proceed have long been settled. But there are social costs attached to going at it again, including a public queasiness over whether — or when — it's the right thing to do. When one man on the street was approached by a television reporter in the first raw moments following the wrongful-death verdict against O. J. Simpson, his brow furrowed in confusion. Why, he asked, did O. J. have to pay when a jury had already acquitted him?

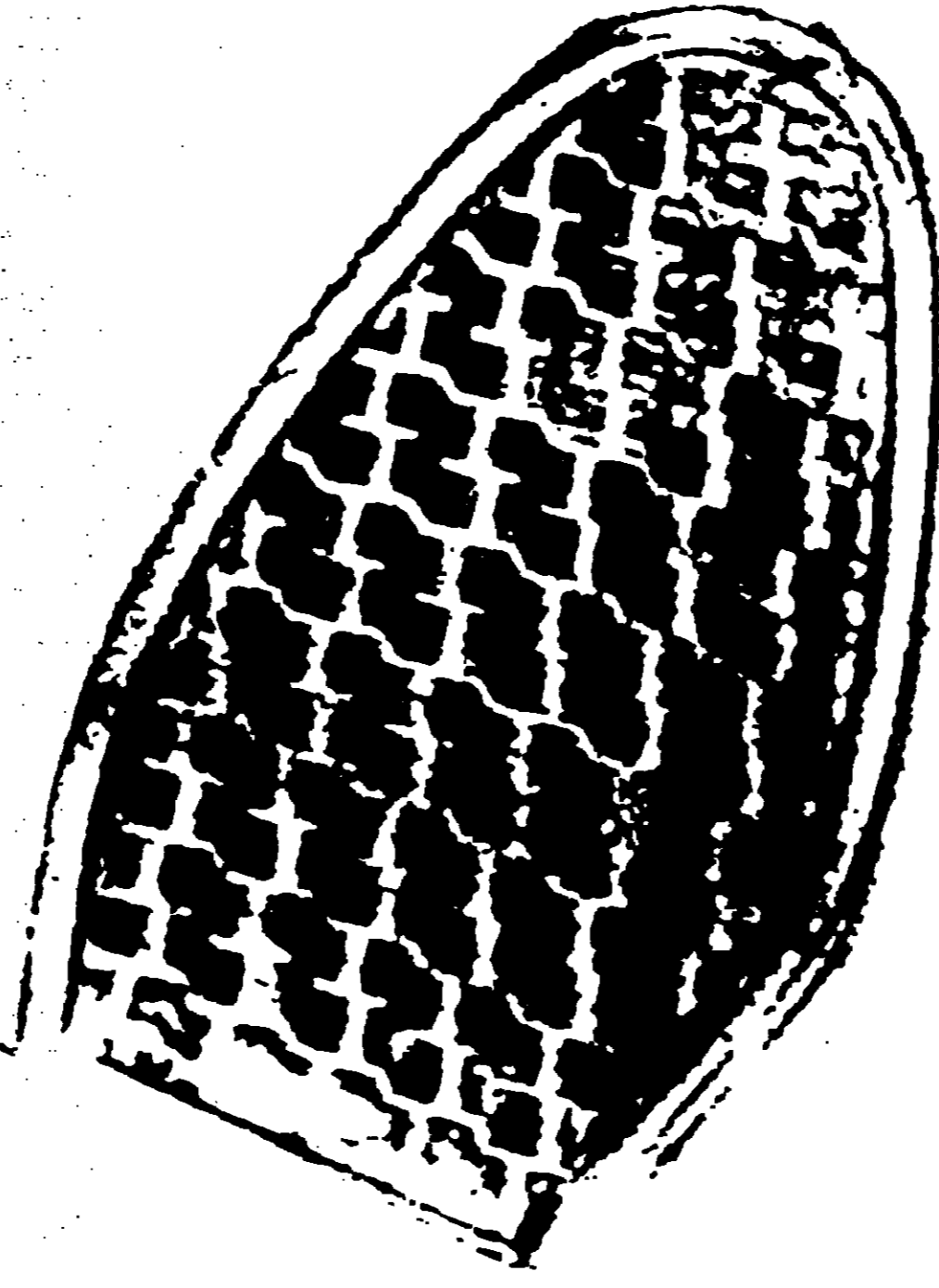
## Final, Sort Of

The simple answer, beyond the textbook explanations about the difference between criminal and civil trials, is that the victims' families, not to mention millions of Americans, would just not accept the first verdict. That's a modern, rather remarkable notion, given the gravitas with which the finality of a jury verdict, particularly an acquittal, has traditionally been viewed. But increasingly, the public — and not just the victims or aggrieved communities, like the Hasidic Jews of Crown Heights — is insisting: if at first you don't succeed, try, try him again. No justice, no end to litigation.

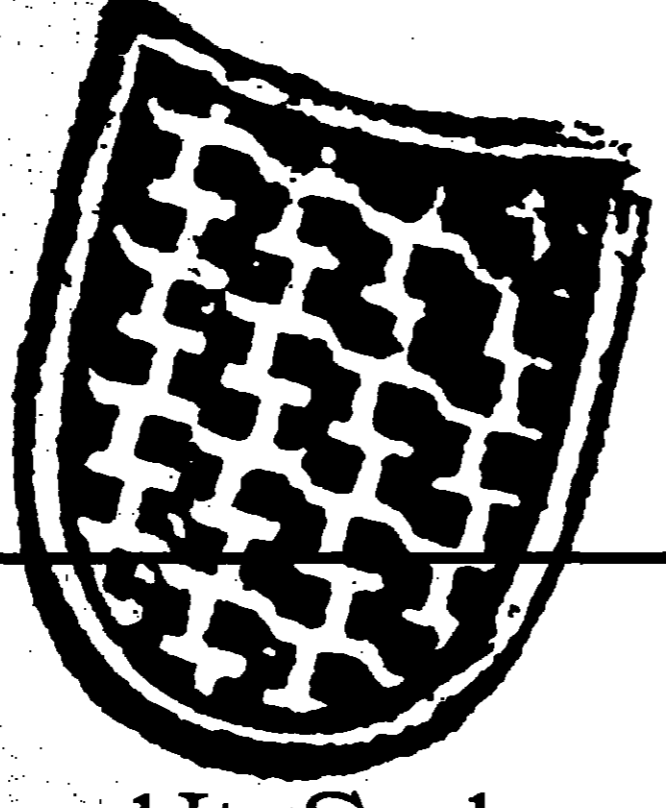
Some believe that these second bites are all to the good, particularly in high-profile cases, which are never just about answers to the did-he-or-didn't-he question. To the public, the Simpson trials were also about race and racism, celebrity and wealth, domestic violence. "These separate trials put the legal system in the best light," said Joseph Sanders, a sociologist and law professor at the University of Houston. "Black people can say, 'We told you so about these police departments,' and white people can say, 'He didn't' and feel somewhat vindicated. And the legal system itself is pervasively protected by being able to blame juries for whatever happened."

And after the emotional heat of a first trial, the public may be better prepared to live with a second outcome, whatever it is. Nonetheless, this impulse to undo an unpopular jury decision has its costs. The integrity of a unanimous jury verdict is not to be trifled with in American jurisprudence. But the pursuit of a different result, in a different forum, will forever impugn the original acquittals: Think of the disdain that clings to the jurors in O. J. I, Rodney King I, Goetz I. And consider the pressure on the second juries to reach the "right" verdict.

The defendant pays dearly, of course. Mr. Simpson's multimillion-dollar legal help kept him out of prison but did not protect him from the multimillion-dollar civil suit. The four officers indicted in the Rodney King beating case in Los Angeles, who went into debt to pay defense lawyers for two criminal trials, faced prison twice for the same crime. Their state acquittals were meaningless, a bitter price for the two officers who were again acquitted in the Federal trial, an unbearable one for the two who were finally convicted.



The second time around, O. J. Simpson was found to be a killer. One reason: his Bruno Magli shoes, the kind that left this print at the murder scene.



## Villains or Victims? Money Politics, and Its Suckers

By R. W. APPLE JR.

**S**O who are the bad guys? With American politics awash in money as never before, with lurid tales of contributions from shadowy Asians and Asian-Americans and American-Americans, with disturbing accounts of politically motivated White House kaffeeklatsches where regulators and those they regulate mingle chubbily, it is the plutocrats who are usually portrayed as the villains. As they have since the days when Thomas Nast caricatured the Tweed Ring, most people envisage fat, cigar-smoking lobbyists shuffling wads of cash into politicians' pockets in exchange for legislative favors or jobs or other goodies.

Well, up to a point. A few rich contributors still inevitably win appointments to choice embassies, regardless of Administration; Charles Price got London from Ronald Reagan, and Swanee Hunt got Vienna from Bill Clinton. More can place young relatives or protégés in very junior jobs — interns, assistants to assistants — in Cabinet departments or the White House.

freely, you can count on a photograph, and many covet them, even at a price. One lobbyist — call him Lobbyist X — is not surprised. "If you're worth \$50 million, and a lot of people are these days," he said, "what the hell difference does it make if it costs you \$125,000 to get a signed color photo of yourself with the President to hang on your wall and impress your friends?"

Most important, you can count on access. If you give to a committee chairman you can count on testifying at his hearing, and meeting with him later when he's considering a bill that affects your business. He may

throw in a helpful amendment, or vote with you if he has no strong feelings of his own on the matter. You may be able to get in to see the Vice President or even the President. But here, too, matters get complicated.

The committee chairman may be under countervailing pressures, from the White House or his party leadership or his constituents or even his conscience, and he may vote against you despite the contribution. "They never promise," said another old Washington



But Richard Lempert, a sociologist at the University of Michigan, said the cost of not retrying some cases could also be intolerable. If the second Simpson trial had not taken place, he said, "telling a nation that you can get away with murder is too high a price to pay for telling the police that you'd better get your act together."

One of the most powerful benefits of O. J. II, and its less notorious predecessor, Goetz II — the civil suit by a young man left paralyzed by the Manhattan subway gunman Bernhard H. Goetz, who was acquitted in 1987 of attempted murder charges — was the full-throated voice these trials gave to survivors, who are otherwise bit players in state criminal trials.

Using the civil court, the families of Ronald Goldman and Nicole Brown Simpson went mano a mano with Mr. Simpson, forcing him to testify, in courtroom face-offs that had something of a duel-at-dawn immediacy.

Some worry that courts will be increasingly used as

It isn't double jeopardy. But whether it's a good idea is even more complicated.

the legal analogue to buying a gun and doing a Charles Bronson. But George P. Fletcher, a law professor at Columbia University, approves of the civil retrial as an instrument of justice. "The victim becomes the center of the attention, not the police," he said, "and the victim can have more control of the action by choosing the lawyer. There's something beautifully attuned to the American spirit of private initiative and the free market."

The use of civil courts to seek retribution is finding favor. Victims are filing suits for drunken driving, domestic violence and even murder that have first ended in convictions, acquittals, plea bargains, or even decisions by prosecutors not to press charges. Thomas Nelson, a lawyer with the National Victim Center in Arlington, Va., said, "Since the murders of Ron Goldman and Nicole, wrongful-death appeals have risen two-thirds."

Legal scholars are more disturbed by Federal prosecutions that follow acquittals in state court, as in Rodney King II. The Supreme Court has ruled that such prosecutions do not violate the double jeopardy clause of the Constitution, because the state and Federal governments are separate entities.

## Crown Heights, Cont.

And so Federal prosecutors are trying Lemrick Nelson Jr. for stabbing a Hasidic Jew named Yankel Rosenbaum during a riot in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn in 1991, under a theory that Mr. Nelson deprived Mr. Rosenbaum of his civil rights by causing him injury — he died hours later — in a public place.

Does anyone really believe that this second prosecution is sufficiently distinct from the state murder charges of which Mr. Nelson was acquitted in 1992?

The use of Federal civil rights laws to prosecute defendants acquitted in state courts dates to the mid-1960's, when Federal prosecutors pursued the murderers of civil rights workers in the South. The Federal prosecutions of Mr. Nelson and a new co-defendant, like that of the police officers in the King case, were pursued under the noble aura of those 1960's precedents.

Certainly the benefit of having a second Rodney King prosecution was substantial. Using Federal resources to articulate a national value — that violent, racist state law enforcement officers should be punished — seemed appropriate. "Some people will say, 'Even though the Federal prosecution was pretextual and problematic, it's a good thing to have because of state incompetence,'" said Mark Kelman, a professor at Stanford Law School. The Crown Heights prosecution, which was hardly a

Continued on page 4

## Age of Immodesty I couldn't have done it without me.

By Adam Bryant



## Albright's Roots Hidden meaning in a secret heritage.

By Ari L. Goldman

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## God Therapy Evangelicals now embrace a religious psychotherapy.

By Gustav Niebuhr

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# The Nation

## Albright Finds Her Place Among History's Victims

By ARI L. GOLDMAN

**T**HERE is nothing new about Jews or people of Jewish background serving in the highest echelons of American government. There have been — and are — senators, members of Congress and Cabinet-level officials, especially in the 24 years since Henry Kissinger became the first Jewish Secretary of State.

But the news last week that Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright is the grandchild of Jews who perished in the Holocaust was different, because her Jewish roots had been a secret, hidden even from Ms. Albright by her parents.

### A Tie to Jewish History

The disclosure does not, of course, make her a Jew; she remains a Christian who was born a Roman Catholic in 1937 and became an Episcopalian when she married in 1959. But, like it or not, the disclosure ties her in a personal and tragic way to one of the defining moments of modern Jewish history: the Holocaust.

It has always been known that her parents fled Czechoslovakia to escape Nazism. But now much more is added to the story: They were born Jews but converted in

### Will the new Secretary of State now tend to look at the world differently?

the shadow of Hitler's advance, then lived out their lives as Catholics and brought their daughter up in Christianity. Three of their own parents died in the slaughter.

"The important question is: does this make Madeleine Albright look at the world differently?" said Samuel C. Hellman, professor of sociology at Queens College of the City University of New York and author of "Portrait of American Jews" (University of Washington Press, 1996). "Does it help her understand the insecurities of the Jewish people in the wake of the Holocaust? Does it make her more sensitive to needs of Israel?"

The State Department said such questions were largely irrelevant. When The Washington Post published the story of Ms. Albright's background last week, the State Department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said: "This is a personal issue for her and her family. It is not a political issue. It is not a foreign policy issue and it's not going to have an impact on the way she does her job."

But Professor Hellman was not so sure. "This is more than a personal discovery," he said. "It is suddenly joining a people, even if she continues to identify herself as an Episcopalian. The Jewish people will never look at her the same way."

The Washington Post revelations, which Ms. Albright declared to be "fairly compelling," were not the first linking of her Jewish roots. The Mayor of the Czech town where her father grew up said last week that he had sent her several letters documenting her heritage. A spokesman for the Secretary of State said Ms. Albright did not remember that specific correspondence. She said numerous letters about her heritage arrived from Central Europe but did not seem conclusive. Nevertheless,



Madeleine Albright's cousin, Milena Demlova, with their grandmother, Olga Korbel, a Holocaust victim.

during the White House vetting process before she was appointed, officials said, such letters had prompted her to raise the possibility that she was of Jewish descent.

Last December, after President Clinton nominated her, Arab newspapers, like the London-based Al Hayat, published suggestions that she was Jewish, and called her the choice of "the Jewish lobby." After the reports were confirmed last week, Al Medina, a Saudi newspaper, said the Washington Post article "constitutes indirect Zionist blackmail" to force America into pro-Israel positions.

Even before the latest revelation, prominent American Jews had been favorably disposed to Ms. Albright. "Jews were already wild about her," said J. J. Goldberg, author of "Jewish Power" (Addison-Wesley, 1996), a new book on the influence of Jews in American government. "The assumption was that she was a person who demon-

strated a commitment to an activist foreign policy and the use of American power abroad to defend democracy and values," he said, citing a formula that seems good for Israel.

The Holocaust ties aside, that would be consistent with her experience as a Czech émigré; she has often said her touchstone in thinking about foreign policy was the West's failure to step in and stop Hitler in time.

Still, Mr. Goldberg said the revelations of Ms. Albright's Jewish roots were significant because, despite them, her right to serve had not come under challenge. "This demonstrates the degree to which Jews are seamlessly integrated into American society, a fact that Jews still find fascinating," he said. "There's no scandal here, no crusade for her to resign. Nobody wonders whether she can do the job."

The reception that Jews got in government 40 years ago was quite different. "F.D.R. was mocked for having too many Jews in his administration," Mr. Goldberg said. "There were so many that his critics called him 'Rosenfeld.' " It wasn't until the 1960's that the tide began to turn as polls began to show that Jews in general were not considered a threat and a "foreign element." The experience was not unlike the fear that some Americans had of Catholics, a fear that was confronted and largely dismissed by the election of John F. Kennedy to the White House in 1960.

### This Czech émigré knew the cost of failing to stop Hitler. But now there's more.

Over time, Jews and Catholics alike have apparently come to be trusted to pursue America's national goals, rather than those sought only by their interest groups. The list of Jews is long and includes Mr. Kissinger and the late Arthur J. Goldberg, the former United Nations representative and Supreme Court Justice.

By J. J. Goldberg's account, there are now 10 Jews in the Senate and 24 in the House of Representatives. In the new Cabinet, William Cohen, whose father was Jewish, does not consider himself a Jew, but Robert Rubin (Treasury) and Daniel Glickman (Agriculture) do.

The Jewish connection means more to some than others, but, inevitably, expectations surround having a Jewish name or background. Mr. Goldberg tells of interviewing Senator Paul Wellstone, a Democrat of Minnesota, who is Jewish. The Senator said he was guided by the words of his mother: "It doesn't matter whether you consider yourself a Jew, because other people will." Senator Wellstone told of other senators seeking his guidance on issues affecting Jews, such as Israel, even when he wasn't the expert.

The reaction to the disclosures about Ms. Albright's background included some examples of Jewish paranoia. Zev Brenner, who is the host of a Jewish radio talk show popular with Orthodox audiences that is broadcast in New York, on WMCA, said that one persistent reaction he's heard is, "Now that she's Jewish, she'll never last in the job. This is the end for her."

### Something in Common

Other reactions have been more self-congratulatory. "Of course she's Jewish, she's smart; it's those Jewish genes," one caller said.

Robert Pollack, a professor of biological science at Columbia who is active in Jewish life on campus, cringes at the idea of Jewish genes.

Despite recent stories that some Jews, particularly the priestly class, are linked by similar DNA, Dr. Pollack says that "biology does not define Judaism." To think of singular Jewish genes, he said, is to embrace the ideology of the Nazis, who targeted all Jews with annihilation simply because of their ancestry.

"I salute Madeleine Albright as an Episcopalian woman with an interesting problem, a problem which I share," Dr. Pollack said. "Our ancestors were killed for no reason. Knowing that fact will make her a better Secretary of State."

### God Therapy

## Putting Life's Trials In a Sacred Context

By GUSTAV NIEBUHR

**I**N the world of politics, Ralph Reed and the Christian Coalition have come to signify sweeping change among the nation's 40 million-plus evangelical Protestants. But signs of a quieter cultural shift can be seen on a visit to a Christian bookstore.

In the section devoted to the "Christian life," once the province of books on prayer and devotions, you can now find guides on how to stop worrying, overcome codependency, manage stress and live free of guilt.

Those titles point to a major change: many evangelical Protestants, members of a group that long viewed psychotherapy as hostile to religious belief, have largely put aside their suspicions of the profession. The result has been a rise in enrollment in psychology courses at evangelical seminaries, the establishment of chains of psychological clinics catering to a conservative Christian clientele and the discussion of topics related to therapy on religious radio stations.

### A Backlash Brewing

Proponents of what is broadly called "Christian counseling" say many evangelicals have come to believe that psychological help can come from a religious perspective, with reference to God and Scripture, rather than from Freud and Jung. And this type of psychotherapy has become accepted "because people see the results" in fellow churchgoers who have been helped to overcome depression, anger and sundry other ills, said Steven Arterburn, co-founder and chairman of New Life Clinics, a chain of counseling centers. Mr. Arterburn also created Women of Faith, a new organization that has held mass meetings in various cities in which women talk of relying on God as they cope with all manner of problems.

Mr. Arterburn, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex., acknowledged that a backlash was brewing against Christian psychotherapy. "There's still a large movement counter to counseling in the church," he said.

The critics are a varied group, some totally hostile to the movement, others taking a more nuanced approach. But what worries

many is concern that the language of the therapist's office will come to dominate pulpit and pew, that the traditional focus on salvation will collapse into a preoccupation with self-esteem.

"It's a huge trend," said Os Guinness, a senior fellow at Trinity Forum in Burke, Va., which provides educational seminars to business executives. Mr. Guinness says he fears "a total replacement of theological categories with psychological categories."

Mr. Guinness wrote recently that although healing has always been a basic part of the church's mission, he was concerned that the apparent fascination of many evangelicals with psychotherapy risked making it an "alternative gospel" in their churches.

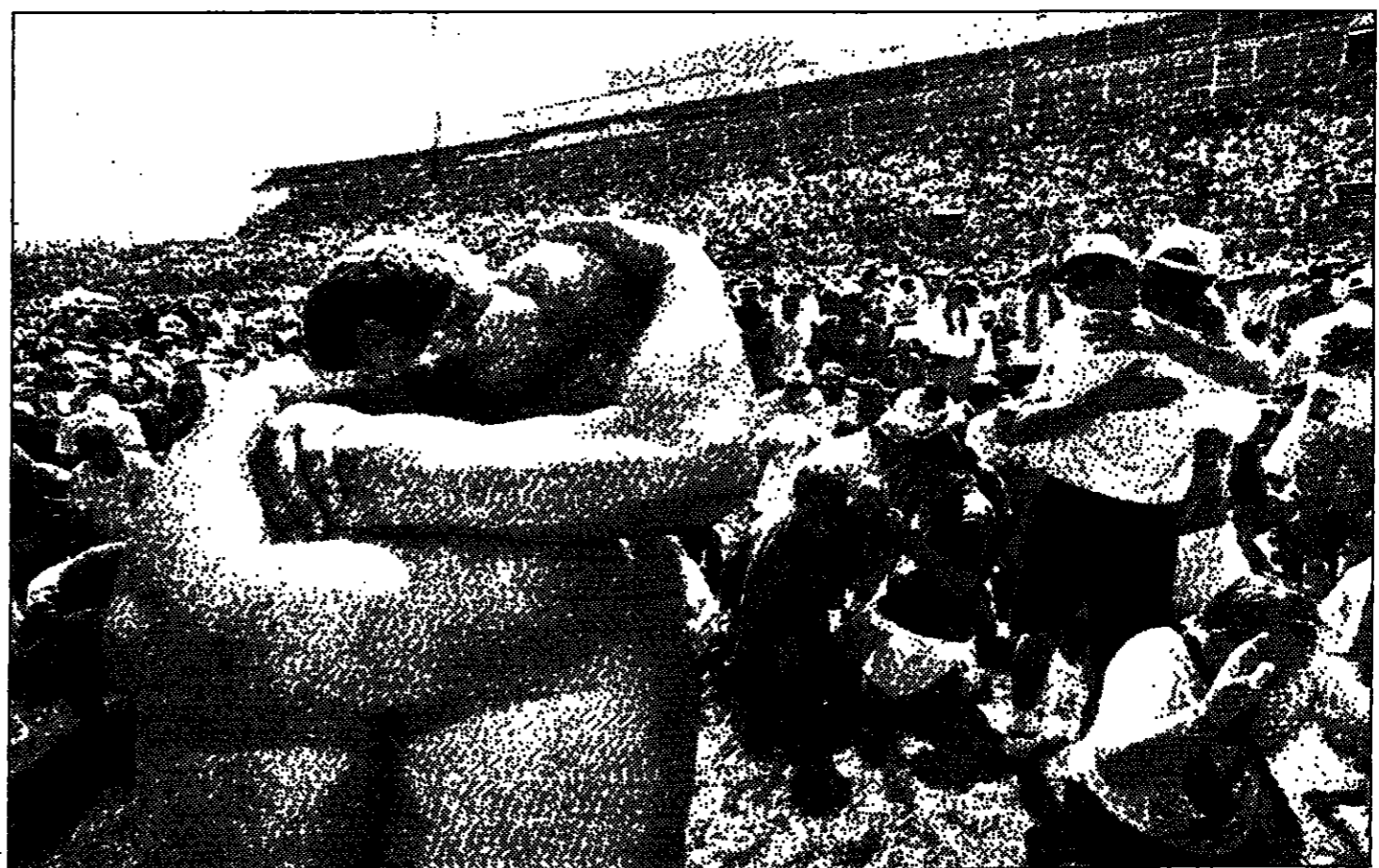
Historically, Protestants in this country have allowed room not only for people concerned with the individual soul's relationship to God but also for those who would look for faith's concrete results.

It was a clergyman, the Rev. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, who wrote "The Power of Positive Thinking." Many have followed his path, including the Rev. Robert Schuller, a television preacher and author of numerous best-selling books, with titles like "The Be (Happy) Attitudes" and "Believe in the God Who Believes in You." (Last Tuesday, as he delivered the State of the Union address, President Clinton thanked Mr. Schuller, who was seated with Mr. Clinton's wife, Hillary, in the House gallery, for providing him with a "verse from Isaiah on which to reflect.")

In voicing their concerns, critics of the Christian psychology movement are in effect raising a larger question: In the interaction of organized religion and the broader society, who is transforming whom?

In recent years, that question has focused on "megachurches," the vast suburban temples built by enterprising pastors who often include non-sacred features like aerobics classes, cafés and even movie theaters. Defenders of the megachurch movement say such amenities are the medium, not the message, meant to make churchgoing attractive to a post-World War II generation raised on shopping malls and multiplex cinemas. That generation, too, grew up familiar with encounter groups and the belief that a readiness to share one's feelings was a sign of personal health.

Young people who absorbed those ideas



Mass movements draw on religious self-help. After praying, men embrace at a North Carolina conference of the Promise Keepers.

were among those who belonged to religious youth groups in the 1960's or fell in with the born-again hippies of the "Jesus Movement" of the 1970's, said Nancy T. Ammerman, a professor of sociology of religion at Hartford Seminary. Nowadays, she said, "those folks

### Evangelicals now embrace a religious psychotherapy.

are the deacons and the preachers."

Some of their congregants, too, are men and women who have had experience with the "recovery movement," whose best-known component is Alcoholics Anonymous. In the 1980's, recovery groups grew explosively, as people sought relief from addictions and personal traumas by following spiritually oriented 12-step programs that de-

manded that adherents look to a "higher power" and take "a searching and fearless moral inventory" of themselves.

The success of those groups has influenced organized religion, prompting many churches (including megachurches) to create their own small groups, each with a dozen or so members, following the outward form, if not the content, of A. A.

"The ones I have seen definitely have a support-group dynamic to them," Professor Ammerman said, calling them forums where the realities of everyday life and faith are placed alongside each other.

### Prayer Power

Although such groups typically center on Bible study or a discussion of parenting or personal finances, they allow participants to raise personal concerns, often in the form of prayer requests. What such a request amounts to, Professor Ammerman said, is, "I'm putting whatever's happening in my life into sacred context, and I'm asking you, the support group, to help me understand what God is trying to accomplish."

In a study he did of small groups five years ago, Robert Wuthnow, a professor of sociology at Princeton University, estimated that there were 3 million of them scattered around the country, many in churches, others built around 12-step programs.

He said he saw them providing an essential coping mechanism for many of their participants. "The world we live in is such a jolting, jarring experience for many people," he said.

But for the church, he saw a mixed blessing. Such small groups can create a sense of community where none existed, bring people into Bible studies and help pastors attract people into church life, he said.

But this can come at a cost. Professor Wuthnow added, saying these groups' spiritual dynamics can "inoculate people against deeper forms of spirituality and deeper relationships with God."

It's subtle, because the language of Christianity is one of love and acceptance," he said. "But in many small groups, it's such total acceptance and tolerance, there may not be much accountability that is part of the package."

# Ideas & Trends

## Are They Dead Yet? Well, Yes and No.

By FRANK BRUNI

**A**BE VIGODA has been dead so long he's learned to live with it. The mix-up started in 1982, when People magazine prematurely interred the jowly, sunken-eyed grinch of the TV show "Barney Miller" by prefacing his name with the phrase "the late." Since then, Mr. Vigoda says, the confusion has never stopped. Just a month ago, he says, a salesman at Bloomingdale's did a double take, then stammered: "You look like Abe Vigoda. But you can't be Abe Vigoda, be-

Of late, fame can be followed by a long passage of neglect.

cause he's dead. Wait, are you Abe Vigoda? You can't be!"

He can and he is — the same Abe Vigoda, hale at 75, who takes daily jogs around the reservoir in Central Park and watches one or two runners turn vaguely pale as they pass him, as if they have spotted an apparition. Such is the nature of life among the nearly dead, who have merely departed to the periphery of the public's radar screen.

Mr. Vigoda, by dint of name recognition, belongs to that breed of aged entertainers, politicians and others about whom one can never quite be sure: Are they still alive? Or did I miss the obituary?

The existence of such a tribe was highlighted in a trailer for the movie "Mother," in which the director Albert Brooks, playing one side of a phone conversation, bragged that he had cast "the legendary Debbie Reynolds" in the title role, then, after a pause, protested, "She's not dead."

Now there is actually a resource to consult. It's an Internet site called the Dead

People Server, and it's a cheeky, irreverent compendium of all those personages whose fleeting tangos with fame gave way to a more enduring celebrity limbo.

The cyber-equivalent of an E.K.G., it offers the reassurance that Charo has not departed for that koochie-koo kingdom in the sky, and reminds that Minnie Pearl now wears her price-tag tassel in what is assuredly a grander, older opry. Buddy Hackett is still among us, albeit sighted less often than Bigfoot, while Joan Hackett, sadly, is not.

Tasteless? Absolutely. Useless? Certainly not. The Dead People Server and the celebrity malingers it documents are arguably the ultimate proof, and inevitable consequence, of a Warholian world in which 15 minutes of attention give way to a yawning, seemingly interminable passage of neglect.

Listing people who are truly dead as opposed to just doing a convincing imitation addresses a real, if not exactly pressing, problem of these celebrity-obsessed times: With so many putatively famous people knocking around, it is downright impossible to keep track of where they are, let alone whether they are breathing.

"Celebrity has really taken over the culture of the media, and the news is more than ever celebrity news, so it makes for a very crowded field, and a lot of people get squeezed off," says Mark Crispin Miller, a professor of media studies at Johns Hopkins University. Moreover, Mr. Miller says, the squeezing "seems to have accelerated."

### The Captain Is Here

Bob Keeshan, for the record, is alive and well and writing books and departing for speaking tours from a home base in Norwich, Vt. If his name does not ring a bell, that of his alter ego — Captain Kangaroo — should rattle a xylophone. (The man who played Mr. Green Jeans, Hugh "Lumpy" Brannum, alas, is dead.)

Mr. Keeshan gets prickly about the notion of being mistaken for dead, insisting it never happens. But a publicist at Fairview Press, Mr. Keeshan's publisher, cited that erroneous assumption as an obstacle in marketing



Abe Vigoda, alive and well last week in his Manhattan apartment, after working out.

his books. Mr. Keeshan's agent also said that people are sometimes surprised to learn that Mr. Keeshan is alive.

And Mr. Keeshan, 69, ends a telephone interview by saying, in a tone of strained mirth, "Do I need to send you a notarized statement saying I'm alive, so you know you're not talking to a recording?"

Nonetheless, his mention on the Dead People Server is at least logical. The appearance of others seems a bit like overkill. While it may surprise some people that Fats Domino is still alive, it will be a revelation only to cave dwellers that Kurt Cobain is not. And while it will unshutter some eyes to discover that the politician Carl Albert is still with us, is there anyone who doesn't know that Bella Abzug is still blustering on?

"I remain very active!" bellows Ms. Abzug, 76, upon learning of her place on the list. "I was in the press after the Democratic National Convention. I'm a member of the Democratic National Committee.

"I've been in Newsweek, I've been in

Time, I've been in New York magazine just a couple of weeks ago," Ms. Abzug goes on. "I'm working around the clock. I travel around the world. Right now, I'm leaving to go to the White House — this very moment."

For entertainers, the means for artificial celebrity life support seem to have diminished. "The Love Boat," which reliably gave these wayward souls a reprieve of shuffleboard on the Lido Deck, docked long ago. Similarly, the plane that whisked them to and from "Fantasy Island" crashed. "Hollywood Squares," which may go down as the most aptly titled show in the history of television, stopped offering leases to otherwise homeless celebrities years ago.

So what's an Abe Vigoda to do? He says he makes frequent appearances on Conan O'Brien's late-night talk show in part to dispel the greatly exaggerated rumors of his death. And he laughs at the confusion.

A producer actually called Mr. Vigoda's agent looking for "an Abe Vigoda type." And last June, a gossip column in the New York

### Dead or Alive?



1 Mike Douglas 2 Floyd Patterson



3 Eva Gabor 4 Zsa Zsa Gabor



5 John Cameron Swayze 6 Shirley Temple Black

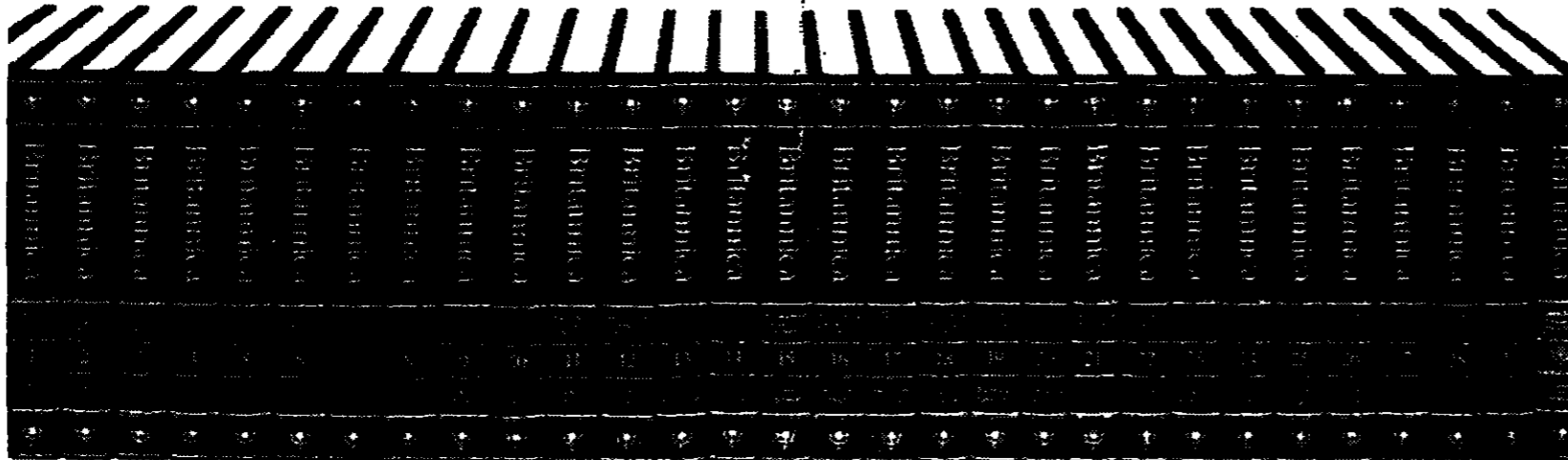
- 7 Leon Jaworski
- 8 Fats Domino
- 9 Lady Bird Johnson
- 10 Telly Savalas
- 11 Red Buttons
- 12 Curtis E. LeMay
- 13 Leo Durocher
- 14 Wilma Rudolph
- 15 Andrei A. Gromyko
- 16 Doris Day

Answers: 1) Alive; 2) Dead; 3) Alive; 4) Dead; 5) Alive; 6) Dead; 7) Alive; 8) Dead; 9) Alive; 10) Dead; 11) Alive; 12) Dead; 13) Alive; 14) Dead; 15) Alive; 16) Dead.

The New York Times

Post recounted a heated conversation about Mr. Vigoda on America Online. One person claimed to have seen Mr. Vigoda in a Nordstrom's store in Escondido, Calif. Another fired back: "You need glasses. Abe's no longer with us." Yet another entered the electronic fray, writing: "I've seen Abe in person. He only looks dead."

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## Tried, Tried Again

Continued From Page 1

classic civil rights case, was the result of enormous political pressure brought to bear on the Justice Department by the Hasidic Jewish community and by, among others, Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato and Representative Charles E. Schumer.

All the more reason that follow-up Federal prosecutions give pause to Randy E. Barnett, a law professor at Boston University. "They only happen when there's a tremendous amount of publicity about the acquittal and there's pressure to get the right outcome," he said. "That's precisely when an individual needs the protection of the double jeopardy clause."

Some people are so distrustful of state power that they believe that if prosecutors don't win a conviction on the first try, they shouldn't get a

## Victims file suit for drunken driving, domestic violence and murder.

second shot. It would follow that Lyle and Erik Menendez should not have been retried for the murders of their parents in 1989 in California and that Alex Kelly, the well-beeled young Connecticut man tried last fall on charges of sexually assaulting a young woman a decade ago, should not face another prosecution.

But the law and the public are willing to bear the cost of a second prosecution when the first ends in a hung jury, as these two cases did.

Imagine a system in which a hung jury translates as an acquittal, said Professor Michael Seidman of the Georgetown University law school. "If a judge thinks it has to be this time or never, he'll keep them deliberating forever," he said. "It would turn into an endurance contest where the dissenters, instead of authentically disagreeing with the majority, will have been coerced."

Besides, important questions of public interest would otherwise be left hanging in the Menendez and Kelly cases. Questions about wealth and sex. And tennis and skiing.

So, once more, raise your right hand. Inquiring minds want to know.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.



















CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

David Witztham, who hosts Channel 1's arts and culture weekly show Different Drummer...

LECTURE

HELEN KAYE

Japanese theater expert and scholar Zvika Serper continues his lecture demonstrations...

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Rina Yerushalmi's three-and-a-half-hour Vayomer Vayelech is a straight-backed, iconoclastic exploration of the Bible...

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

The documentary Brother's Keeper is the story of four old and feeble-minded brothers who lived on a run-down farm in upstate New York...



The suffering of a young Scottish woman is at the center of 'Breaking the Waves.'

of kibbutz Deganya and a member of that disappearing breed of idealistic pioneers...

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

\*\*\*\*\* BREAKING THE WAVES - Danish director Lars Von Trier's English-language film provides one of the more powerful shocks in recent cinematic memory...

TV

CHANNEL 1

- 8:30 News flash
8:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning, Israel
9:35 America's Funniest Videos
20:00 Best Seller: Seduced by Madness
22:00 News in English
22:05 Feature film: Remembrance
00:00 The Four Seasons

CHANNEL 2

- 6:15 Today's Programs
8:30 Sharkey and Galt
7:00 Breakfast Magazine
9:00 Santa Barbara
10:00 Pablo
10:00 A Man of the Year
11:30 Five Children and It
12:00 Doug
12:30 Basic Arabic
13:00 Open Cards
14:00 Echo Point
14:30 Tic Tac - quiz show
15:00 Super Duper
15:30 Meira & Wis
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:00 News Magazine with Rati Rotem
17:30 Zehu Zeh
18:00 McKenna - the adventures of a family in Cyprus
18:00 Open Cards
20:00 News
20:30 It's Nothing
21:30 Dan Shilon Live
23:00 Yes, Minister
00:00 News
00:05 Night Owls Talk
20:00 On the Edge of the Sheet

JORDAN TV

- 13:00 Holy Koran
13:05 Caroons
14:30 Tilt (comedy)
15:00 French programs
16:00 Feature film: Project All

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13:05 Caroons
14:30 Tilt (comedy)
15:00 French programs
16:00 Feature film: Project All

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 6 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs on various channels.

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

- 18:00 Caroons
18:30 Yasin
18:30 Yasin
18:30 Yasin
18:30 Yasin
18:30 Yasin
18:30 Yasin
18:30 Yasin
18:30 Yasin
18:30 Yasin
18:30 Yasin

ETV 2 (22)

- 15:30 All Together Now
16:00 Animals of the Mediterranean
16:30 Scientific Eye
17:00 Fruits of the Earth
17:30 Phenomenal World
18:00 Basic Arabic
18:30 Family Roleplay
19:00 Computers and the Internet
19:30 Vis a Vis
20:00 A New Evening - with Russian subtitles
20:30 Cybernews
21:00 Star Trek: The Next Generation
21:45 Video Clips
22:00 Female Perspective
22:30 Situation - documentary series
23:30 Revolutions in the Modern Era

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

- 8:00 Dallas
9:00 One Life to Live (rpt)
9:45 The Young and the Rubicon Diaries
10:30 Days of Our Lives (rpt)
11:15 Perla Negra (rpt)
12:45 Zingars (rpt)
12:45 The Streets of San Francisco
13:35 Duet
14:00 Dallas
14:30 Days of Our Lives
15:35 The Nanny
16:00 Hercules
16:30 Zingars
16:30 New York Daze
18:00 One Life to Live
18:45 The Young and the Restless
17:05 Little

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 6 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs on various channels.

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Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 6 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs on various channels.



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD puzzle with clues and grid.

SOLUTIONS for the cryptic crossword puzzle.

QUICK CROSSWORD puzzle with clues and grid.

MOVIES

MOVIES section listing various films and their showtimes.

General Assistance and Where To Go listings now appear on Page 9.

